

## AFFAIRS IN BROOKLYN.

## NEWS FROM NEW-JERSEY.

## NEW-BRUNSWICK.

## A SERIES OF RUNAWAY ACCIDENTS.

NO REFERENCE TO ANNEXATION TO NEW-YORK

—A HEAVY CITY DEBT AND HIGH TAX RATE.

The Brooklyn Board of Aldermen, who have another

year of office, held their first meeting of the year

yesterday. Michael J. Coffey was re-elected president

of the Board, and in spite of Republican opposition

the post of assistant messenger was created and filled

by the appointment of Patrick Grant, of the Sixth

Ward.

Mayor Booty's second message was read and or-

dered printed. The document was more remarkable

for what it omitted than for what it contained. There

was no reference to consolidation with New-York,

although the annexation of the four towns of Kings

County to the city was strongly advocated. No men-

tion was made of new facilities for reaching New-

York by bridge or tunnel, and there was not the

slightest reference to the completion of the Memorial

Arch, or the expenses of its dedication. As good a

showing as possible was made for the Fire Depart-

ment, and the record of fire and losses was stopped

at December 1, while other reports were brought down

to the end of the year; by this means the amount

of losses was kept down by fully \$1,000,000 last

month. The showing that the city debt is dangerously

near the lawful limit, and the tax-rate abnormally

high, reflects no credit upon the administration of

Mayor Booty, which is thus shown to be worse than

that of his predecessors.

The message says that the health of the city has

been remarkably good for the year.

The death rate

is twenty-one in 1,000, which gives the city rank

among the healthiest.

Successful efforts were made

to suppress the nuisances on Newtown Creek, and

diseases' associations have been of assistance.

The growing needs of the Department of Education

are considered at length.

Nearly \$2,000,000 was

raised for educational purposes, and yet the needs

were not fully met.

THE TOTAL CITY DEBT IS \$46,513,111.90, AN INCREASE

OF \$4,083,221 OVER LAST YEAR, AND WITHIN \$1,000,000

OF THE TEN PER CENT LIMITATION, WITHOUT ANY DEDUCTION.

THE TAX-RATE WAS TWENTY CENTS IN \$1,000 HIGHER

THAN IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE TOTAL REAL ESTATE

VALUATION WAS \$466,230,882, AN INCREASE OF \$17,428,842.

IN RELATION TO THE RECENT CHANGES AFFECTING THE FIRE

DEPARTMENT, THE Mayor said:

Notwithstanding the protection which our Fire De-

partment has afforded, and the confidence with

which our citizens have reposed in it, in connection with

our insurance rates made by the Tariff Association of New-York City, I am confident that one can

more earnestly pursue the fullest investigation as

to the truth of these charges than the officers and

members of our Fire Department, and it is due to

them, as well as to the business interest of our city,

that such investigation shall be made speedily and

thoroughly.

The message strongly advocates the annexation of

the towns of Flatbush, New-Utrecht, Gravesend and

Flatlands to the city.

COMPETITION BETWEEN GAS COMPANIES.

The Fulton Municipal Gas Company ceased to fur-

nish gas to the Metropolitan Company at the begin-

ning of the year, and as soon as frost is out of the

ground will extend its pipes in the district supplied

by the Metropolitan Company, and also into that of

the Citizens' Company, which ceased to take its gas

a year or two ago. By an agreement which expires

in the spring, the Brooklyn Company pays the Fulton

Municipal Company \$40,000 a year to prevent com-

petition, but this is not likely to be renewed, and a

general gas war is likely to occur. The Citizens' Com-

pany, which controls the Union Company, of the

Twenty-sixth Ward, also proposes to extend its mains,

and will be prepared to enter the field of the Nasau

and People's companies. The Equity Gas Company,

which changed hands last week, expects to furnish

gas to consumers in about twenty days.

As Kettle, who has a share of its interests, organized

the East River Gas Company, and it is supposed that

they will consolidate.

GATHERED ABOUT THE TOWN.

MAYER BOOTY has received a communication from

the State Department in relation to the case of Patrick

McDrury, who was smothered in the grain on board

the Anchor Line steamship Bolivia, and whose body

was found at Glasgow when the vessel was unboarded.

The communication asks for an investigation, as the

mother of the young man had sought assistance in the

matter referred to the coroner, and the court adjourned for the day.

William Kerigan, of Suffern, N. Y., who has been

in the Hudson County Jail since last spring on the

charge of killing Mrs. Margaret Carson, of No. 161

Steinthalen, was released yesterday, the case having

been "nolled."

## ELIZABETH.

A daring robbery was committed here yesterday

between 5 and 7 o'clock p.m. in the most frequented

part of the city. The jewelry store of William C.

Finch, at No. 125 Broad-st., within a few doors of the

Western Union and Postal Telegraph offices, was broken

into, and jewelry and silverware valued at \$100,000

was snatched.

The burglar smashed one of the plate glass panes in the

door and crawled through the opening. The robbery

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OTHER SUBURBAN TOWNS.

## LONG ISLAND.

PLATBUSH.—Robert J. Cooper, sixty-five years old,

of Avenue A and East Nineteenth-st., Flatbush, died

suddenly while on a Flatbush street-car, at 4 o'clock

p.m., from apoplexy.

The funeral service

will be held at St. Peter's Church, Flatbush, to-morrow

afternoon.

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charge of killing Mrs. Margaret Carson, of No. 161

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been "nolled."

WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

MOUNT VERNON.—Major Edward F. Birch and his

wife held a New-Year's reception at their house in

Fifth-avenue, on the afternoon and evening of Monday,

It was a brilliant affair, and was the first public

reception given by an executive of the city government.

The dinner was served by the Rev. Dr. W. S. Coffey, rector

of Trinity Church, at the Rev. Dr. W. S. Coffey, rector

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